



National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

Tucson, AZ

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

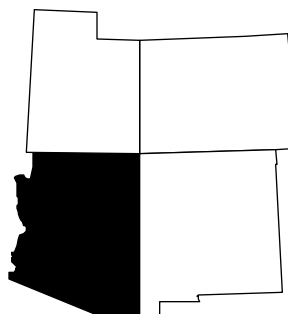
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

OVERVIEW

EPA has selected the City of Tucson for a Brownfields Pilot. Industrial activity in downtown Tucson that began in the 1880s with the advent of the railroad began to decrease in the 1950s. At that time, rail yards were relocated, a major military base was constructed, and pristine and inexpensive land surrounding the city began drawing development away from downtown. A patchwork of vacant, deteriorating, and under-used properties remains. Contamination from various industrial pollutants released over the years threatens the reliability of Tucson's groundwater, the city's only source of drinking water.

The pilot will target one of four designated brownfields areas located within the downtown City Center. The targeted area, known as the Warehouse District/ Barraza Aviation Parkway (BAP) Corridor, encompasses approximately 80 acres of warehouse properties, roadways, and vacant sites. The area suffers from potential groundwater and soil contamination resulting from aviation activities, milling operations, the railroad, and other industrial activities. Tucson's areas of highest economical and social stress are located adjacent to these properties. More than 40 percent of City Center residents live in poverty, 11 percent are unemployed, and more than 50 percent of its population is Hispanic.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Tucson, Arizona

Date of Award:
April 1997

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The pilot will focus brownfields site assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment within the Warehouse District/ Barraza Aviation Parkway Corridor.

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

OBJECTIVES

Tucson's goal is to stimulate sustainable redevelopment of targeted sites. The objectives of the pilot are to complete site assessments, identify funds for cleanup and redevelopment, and begin the redevelopment planning process for brownfields sites within the Warehouse District/BAP Corridor.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Developing a collaborative, community-based process to involve stakeholders;
- Developing brownfields redevelopment planning strategies and waste minimization plans for the Warehouse District/BAP Corridor, including application to other brownfields sites;
- Establishing a database and mapping system of brownfields in the Warehouse/BAP Corridor, including application to other brownfields sites;
- Identifying funding mechanisms for brownfields cleanup;
- Identifying methods to ensure sustainable redevelopment in the downtown area; and
- Providing outreach and education to minority residents of the City Center.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.